

**RAISED BILL No. S.B. 6616 AN ACT ESTABLISHING WOOD SMOKE TO BE A PUBLIC NUISANCE.**

To require the Commissioner of Public Health to amend the Public Health Code to declare that certain wood smoke emissions shall constitute a public nuisance.

Chairs Senator Jonathan Harris, Representative Betsy Ritter, and Members of the Public Committee:

My name is Ken D'Ademo, and I live in Milford, CT

I am here in support of this bill, I'd like to give you a little background on our plight. Several years ago our neighbor received a Coleman outdoor fireplace for Fathers Day. The prevailing winds in our neighborhood brought the smoke toward our house. My son and my wife both suffer from Asthma.

The smoke was so bad that my wife had to be taken to the hospital twice and my son had to increase his asthma meds. We talked to our neighbor and asked if they would at least give us the courtesy of a phone call before burning. They called us once and then began burning almost every night. We called the police who said they could not help and to contact a lawyer. My wife also contacted the EPA, DEP and other resources. Another neighbor who is friends with the mayor even asked him to get involved as her son was also being affected as well. He had the city attorney look into the issue, as well as the health department. All these departments said there was nothing they could do as wood smoke is not part of the nuisance laws and we could try and hire an attorney.

We hired an attorney who took the case and we spent thousands to try and get some help but even Superior Court Judge Ripley ruled against us on March 7, 2005, even after showing that this neighbor burned every time he heard or saw us outside, day, or night. Six neighbors from our neighborhood testified about the smoke enveloping the neighborhood and two other neighbors children developed asthma or had their asthma symptoms worsen.

NO ONE HELPED US.... we ended up selling our home a home and moving. This was after we spent a lot of money on renovating the house and installing an in-ground pool. But that was not the worse of it, my mother-in-law developed lung cancer in early 2005, coincidentally her room had the most exposure to the smoke because of the basement hatch, but the doctors cannot prove that was what caused it, even though she is a non-smoker. She died on January 8<sup>th</sup> of this year.

You need to pass this bill and make it a law so that people who suffer from respiratory ailments can get assistance and protection if needed. Thank you for bringing attention to this issue and I hope that someday there will be protection for everyone especially those who suffer with respiratory ailments. No one should have to suffer like my wife, children, mother-in-law and neighbors did.

Thank you,

  
Kenneth D'Ademo